Visit of high powered US delegation

2362. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered delegation headed by the Secretary of USA had visited India some times before 1995;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to observe the formalities an agreement was reached between the Chairman of Telecom Commission and representative of US delegation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the agreement was signed between Government and Head of delegation of USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. However, a high powered delegation headed by the Secretary of USA had visited Department of Telecommunications, India on 16th January, 1995.

(b) to (d) No agreement was reached between the Chairman of Telecom Commission and representative of US delegation. However, the other technical cooperation memorandum, contract and letter of intent were signed as per the details given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The following memorandum, contract and letter of intent were signed on 16th January, 1995 during the visit of high powered US Delegation lead by Secretary of USA

1. Technical cooperation memorandum signed between Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) of Department of Telecommunications and M/s QUALCOMM, USA, for field trial of CDMA technology as Wireless in Local Loop.

2. Contract between M/s Hughes Network Systems Incorporated, USA and MMD Cell, Department of Telecom for the supply of 200 VSATs and Hub equipment.

3. Issue of the Letter of Intent for Pilot Project to M/s US West (India) Limited in the field of telecommunications from the CS Cell of the Department of Telecommunications.

However, a MoU for CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) demonstration of 150 lines equipment for 90 days was signed on 22.6.94 between the Department of Telecommunications, an agency of the Government of India, through its Telecommunications Engineering Centre, with offices located at DOT, Khurshid Lal Bhavan, Janpath, New Delhi-110001. India ("DOT") and QUALCOMM INCORPORATED, a Delaware, USA Corporation, ("QUALCOMM") with offices located at 6455 Lusk Boulevard, San Diego, California-92121 much before the visit of High Power Delegation mentioned in the question.

Award of work to MNC for induction of latest technology

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to award parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to a US-based MNC for induction of latest technology by the then Government on pilot project basis, withoput a licence fee during 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of signing of MoU between Government and Head of the US delegation, an agreement reached between the Chairman, Telecom and representative of the delegation;

(d) the reasons for which MoU was not signed; and

(e) Government's reaction/decision thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) M/s US West (India) Limited, a joint venture company of US West International and BPL Limited submitted a proposal to implement the pilot projects in 4 Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of Tamil Nadu and 2 SSAs of Karnataka. After examining the said proposal, Government issued Letter of Intent on